

Application No.: 10/501,192

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A lighting unit comprising:

- a light source;
- a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated;
- a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component;
- a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component; and
- a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component, wherein

the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component, [[: and]]

the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion, and

a space is formed between the light guiding component and the light correction component.

2. (Original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

- a lighting unit according to Claim 1; and
- a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, wherein

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the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit.

3. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 2, wherein the liquid crystal panel comprises a pair of polarizers with the liquid crystal cell interposed therebetween; and

a polarizer on the lighting unit side of the pair of polarizers has an outer diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the opening portion of the casing, and directly contacts a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion.

4. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 3, wherein the casing has a frame-shaped edge portion protruding toward the opening portion so as to enclose the opening portion; and the liquid crystal cell is disposed on an upper surface of the edge portion.

5. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 4, wherein a thickness of the edge portion of the casing is substantially equal to a thickness of the polarizer on the lighting unit side.

6. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 2, wherein the casing is made of an electrically conductive material.

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7. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 2, wherein a spacing of ~~[[a]]~~ said space formed between the light guiding component and the light correction component in the lighting unit is not larger than a dimension of each of pixels composing the liquid crystal cell.

8. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 7, wherein the spacing of the space is 0.4mm or smaller.

9. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 7, wherein the casing has a through-hole to allow an outside of the casing and an inside of the casing to communicate with each other.

10. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 2, wherein
the light guiding component is a light guiding plate;
the light source is disposed along a first end face of the light guiding plate;
the reflecting component is a reflecting sheet;
a bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, and a second end face of the light guiding plate on which the light source is not disposed are covered with the reflecting sheet;
the light correction component comprises one or a plurality of light correction sheets; and

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the casing is frame-shaped and supports at least the bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the second end face of the light guiding plate, and the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, each of which is covered with the reflecting sheet.

11. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a lighting unit comprising:

a light source;

a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated;

a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component;

a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component; and

a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component, wherein

the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component, and

the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion; and

a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, wherein

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the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit,

the liquid crystal panel comprises a pair of polarizers with the liquid crystal cell interposed therebetween,

a polarizer on the lighting unit side of the pair of polarizers has an outer diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the opening portion of the casing, and directly contacts a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion,

the casing has a frame-shaped edge portion protruding toward the opening portion so as to enclose the opening portion,

the liquid crystal cell is disposed on an upper surface of the edge portion, and

a thickness of the edge portion of the casing is substantially equal to a thickness of the polarizer on the lighting unit side.

12. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a lighting unit comprising:

a light source;

a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated;

a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component;

a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component; and

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a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component, wherein

the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component, and

the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion; and

a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, wherein

the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit, and

the casing is made of an electrically conductive material.

13. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a lighting unit comprising:

a light source;

a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated;

a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component;

a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component; and

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a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component, wherein

the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component, and

the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion; and

a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, wherein

the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit, and

a spacing of a space formed between the light guiding component and the light correction component in the lighting unit is not larger than a dimension of each of pixels composing the liquid crystal cell.

14. (New) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 13, wherein the spacing of the space is 0.4mm or smaller.

15. (New) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 13, wherein the casing has a through-hole to allow an outside of the casing and an inside of the casing to communicate with each other.

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16. (New) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a lighting unit comprising:

a light source;

a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated;

a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component;

a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component; and

a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component, wherein

the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component, and

the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion; and

a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween, wherein

the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit, and

the light guiding component is a light guiding plate;

the light source is disposed along a first end face of the light guiding plate;

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the reflecting component is a reflecting sheet;

a bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, and a second end face of the light guiding plate on which the light source is not disposed are covered with the reflecting sheet;

the light correction component comprises one or a plurality of light correction sheets; and

the casing is frame-shaped and supports at least the bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the second end face of the light guiding plate, and the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, each of which is covered with the reflecting sheet.